

ARTICLE APPEARED
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WILMINGTON NEWS JOURN.
22 April 1979

Senate to investi security breal

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WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee has decided to investigate CIA security after learning that the agency covered up the fact that Soviet spies had obtained vital information on U.S. spy satellites that would monitor any new strategic arms limitation agreement.

"This means they (the Soviets) had our verification system in hand when they started dealing in the current SALT II talks," a Republican senator on the Intelligence Committee said. He did not want to be identified.

The committee's decision was part of the aftermath of revelations by The Sunday News Journal that the CIA kept news of the 1976 satellite losses from its congressional oversight committee, other intelligence agencies and even the White House.

In a rare formal comment Friday, a National Security Council spokesman said "all necessary information" about SALT verification capabilities "is being made available" to the Senate.

On April 8 the newspaper reported that the two spy satellite systems, Rhyolite and Keyhole (KH), had been compromised by two California men — Christopher J. Boyce and Andrew Daulton Lee. The systems are capable of highly detailed photography and eavesdropping.

Boyce, an employee of TRW Inc., one of the companies that built the satellites, and his friend, Lee, sold detailed information about the satellite systems to Soviet agents. "We are very interested in what happened in California," said intelligence committee spokesman Spencer Davis. "We are looking into the security problems in the agency over this matter."

Senate and Defense Department sources say there is speculation that the CIA was trying to cover up security breaches by blaming them on Boyce, Lee and another convicted spy, William E. Kampiles.

"I want to know why the CIA tried to pin the blame for the loss of the KH-11 on William Kampiles when the stuff had been lost a year before," said one intelligence committee investigator.

Kampiles, a 23-year-old former CIA clerk, was convicted last November in Hammond, Ind., of stealing the operations manual for the KH-11 spy satellite and selling it to a Russian agent in Athens, Greece, earlier that year. Kampiles was sentenced to 40 years for espionage.

A major debate over SALT ratification is whether the United States has the technical capability to verify that the Russians are doing what would be required in a new arms treaty.

In fact, the Senate probe is also looking into contentions of some Defense Department officials that there was a major security breach at the 1971 SALT I security conferences in Vienna and Helsinki. SALT I was signed in 1972.

A National Security Council spokesman said Friday night that while "we do not comment on intelligence matters," the council wanted to make these points:

"All necessary information concerning our verification capabilities is being made available to the appropriate committees in the Senate for their consideration in connection with SALT verification."

"We are not going to make public comments or engage in debate on alleged reports on sensitive intelligence matters related to SALT, no matter how distorted or inaccurate they are."

"We will present our case to the Senate and count on its responsibility and discretion."

The White House referred all to the Senate Intelligence Committee, which then issued the report. And the CIA refused comment, as it has all along.

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yers, prosecutors, TRW officials, CIA officials and a review of still-secret documents relating to the case, the Sunday News Journal has learned that the intelligence losses were far more extensive than believed earlier.

Some of the details were revealed in a classified confession made by Lee to the FBI shortly after his January 7, 1977 arrest in Mexico City. That confession was never entered into evidence in the trial. It was later censored because it would have revealed the extent of damage to U.S. national security.

The copy of the confession made available to the Sunday News Journal had all satellite project names deleted from it with exception of "Pyramide" — but left in some of the details of the system.

Boyce and Lee admitted selling secrets not only to Rhyolite, a system designed to eavesdrop on Kremlin communications, but